

In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A composition comprising:

a mixture formed by mixing ~~ingredients comprising a~~ keratinocyte growth factor (“KGF”) ~~protein related to epithelial cell function and an extracellular matrix-degrading a~~ protease enzyme selected from the group consisting of plasmin, plasminogen, or a functional biological equivalent thereof, wherein the mixture comprises at least a biologically active fragment of ~~the growth factor protein~~ KGF.

Claims 2 – 12 (Cancelled).

23. (Currently amended) The composition of claim ~~13~~ 1, wherein the fibroblast growth factor protein has a concentration of from 0.00001% [w/v] to 0.1% [w/v], and the extracellular matrix-degrading protease enzyme has a concentration of from 0.0001 [w/v] to 1% [w/v].

24. (Currently amended) The composition of claim ~~13~~ 1 further comprising a carrier.

25. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 24, wherein the carrier comprises water, a buffer, a saline solution, a thickener, an emulsion, or an ointment.

Claims 26 – 77 (Cancelled).

Attorney Docket No.:
CARR-0084 (103216.00252)

PATENT

78. (New) The composition of claim 24, wherein the composition and the carrier are lyophilized.

Applicant has carefully considered this Application in connection with the Examiner's Action, and respectfully request reconsideration of this Application in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks.

Pending in the application are Claims 1, 23 – 25, and 78. Applicants have cancelled pending Claims 3, 5, 7, 13 – 15, and 17. Applicants have cancelled withdrawn claims 2, 4, 6, 8 – 12, 16, 18 – 22, and 26 – 77. Applicants have added Claim 78.

Claims 23 – 24 have been amended to depend from Claim 1 rather than cancelled Claim 13. Claim 25 has been amended to specify that the carrier can be water. New Claim 78 has been added to specify that the composition and the carrier can be lyophilized. Support for both of these amendments can be found in the Specification at Page 10, lines 20 – 23.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 13 – 15, 17, and 23 – 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as lacking enablement. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to specify that the growth factor protein is keratinocyte growth factor ("KGF") and the protease enzyme is plasmin or plasminogen. The Examiner has stated that the specification is enabling for KGF and plasminogen or plasmin. Thus, Claims 1 and 23 – 25 as amended are sufficiently enabled by the specification and are patentable. New Claim 78 is patentable as well.

II. Withdrawn Claims

Applicant has cancelled Claims 2, 4, 6, 8 – 12, 16, 18 – 22, and 26 – 77, which were previously withdrawn from consideration, to expedite allowance of this application.

III. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that, in light of the foregoing comments, Claims 1, 23 – 25, and 78 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

Attorney Docket No.:
CARR-0084 (103216.00252)

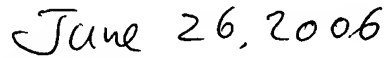
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If the Examiner has any other matters which pertain to this Application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve these matters by Examiner's Amendment where possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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